



Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee on H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor

February 23, 2023

Co-chairs Senator Osten and Representative Walker, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative Nuccio, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Kavan Weise, and I am from Stratford. I'm a father and a recent graduate of the FaithActs Organizing Institute. I also run an afterschool program out of West Rocks Middle School in Norwalk, and I work for prison reform out of an organization in Bridgeport.

I am here to ask that you oppose H.B. 6659, **because it lacks the funding to provide our kids with an equal education.**

Education is the key – and we need everyone to start at the same place. We need to break barriers of high class, middle class, and lower class, and just treat and fund everybody with one Connecticut education funding formula. We have economic and racial funding gaps in Connecticut of over \$700 million. **We must oppose any budget that fails to address those gaps. Because budgets that fail to address those gaps fail to address the problem.**

Money won't fix all our problems, but we can't fix our problems without money. A kid in Fairfield shouldn't be getting a drastically different education than a kid in Bridgeport. And they don't have to. Connecticut has the resources to fund all kids equitably.

We need a budget that fully funds education. That will make a difference in kids' lives, not just in money but in quality of life. You adapt to what you see, and that's from a survival standpoint. More resources will give our children a different view. If kids know better, they do better.

Please oppose H.B. 6659. Instead, support funding one Connecticut education system that funds our kids fairly wherever they live in the state.

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